

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1. A coupling assembly comprising:  
2                   a housing disposed about an axis and having a retainer;  
3                   a coupling pack disposed about the axis; and  
4                   an actuator lever having an end engaged with the retainer of the  
5 housing such that the actuator lever is pivotable with respect to the housing for  
6 applying an axial force on the coupling pack, wherein the retainer inhibits axial  
7 movement of the end of the actuator lever.
- 1                   2. The coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein the retainer comprises  
2 an aperture that extends through the housing, and the end of the actuator lever  
3 extends into the aperture.
- 1                   3. The coupling assembly of claim 2 wherein a portion of the end of  
2 the actuator lever extends radially beyond an outer surface of the housing.
- 1                   4. The coupling assembly of claim 3 wherein the end of the actuator  
2 lever comprises a T-shaped projection.
- 1                   5. The coupling assembly of claim 2 wherein the aperture comprises  
2 a first portion having a first width transverse to the axis, and a second portion  
3 extending axially from the first portion and having a second width transverse to the  
4 axis, wherein the second width is less than the first width.
- 1                   6. The coupling assembly of claim 5 wherein the first and second  
2 portions of the aperture cooperate to define a T-shaped opening.
- 1                   7. The coupling assembly of claim 5 further comprising a retaining  
2 member for retaining a portion of the end of the actuator lever in the second portion  
3 of the aperture.

1                   8. The coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein the retainer comprises  
2 first and second apertures that extend through the housing, and the actuator lever  
3 comprises first and second projections that extend into the first and second  
4 apertures, respectively.

1                   9. The coupling assembly of claim 1 further comprising an actuator  
2 device for pivoting the actuator lever to apply the axial force on the coupling pack.

1                   10. A coupling assembly comprising:  
2                   a housing having an axis, the housing including a first housing  
3 portion and an annular second housing portion extending axially from the first  
4 housing portion, the second housing portion having multiple T-shaped apertures;  
5                   a coupling pack disposed at least partially in the housing;  
6                   multiple actuator levers that each have a main body and multiple T-  
7 shaped projections extending from the main body, each projection extending into  
8 one of the apertures of the second housing portion such that each actuator lever is  
9 pivotable with respect to the housing for applying an axial force on the coupling  
10 pack, wherein the apertures are configured to inhibit axial movement of the  
11 projections of the actuator levers; and  
12                   an actuator device for pivoting the actuator levers to apply the axial  
13 force on the coupling pack.

1                   11. A coupling assembly comprising:  
2                   an annular housing having an outer wall extending about a central  
3 axis, the outer wall of the housing including inwardly extending formed splines  
4 positioned about the central axis and extending parallel thereto, a plurality of the  
5 inwardly extending splines each including a retainer opening;  
6                   a coupling pack received within the outer wall of the housing and  
7 extending about the central axis; and  
8                   a plurality of actuator levers each of which has an outer end engaged  
9 with the retainer opening of an associated spline of the outer wall of the housing  
10 such that the actuator lever is pivotable with respect to the housing, each actuator

11 lever having an inner portion for applying an axial force on the coupling pack upon  
12 pivoting about its outer end.

1 12. The coupling assembly of claim 11 wherein a portion of the  
2 outer end of each actuator lever extends radially beyond an outer surface of the  
3 outer wall of the housing.

1 13. The coupling assembly of claim 12 wherein the outer end of  
2 each actuator lever includes a T-shaped projection.

1 14. The coupling assembly of claim 13 wherein each retainer  
2 opening comprises a first portion having a first width transverse to the axis, and a  
3 second portion extending axially from the first portion and having a second width  
4 transverse to the axis, wherein the second width is less than the first width.

1 15. The coupling assembly of claim 14 wherein the first and second  
2 portions of each retainer opening cooperate to define a T-shaped opening.

1 16. The coupling assembly of claim 14 further comprising a  
2 retaining member for retaining a portion of the outer end of each actuator lever in  
3 the second portion of a respective retainer opening.

1 17. A coupling assembly housing for use with an actuator lever, the  
2 housing comprising:  
3 a first housing portion having an axis; and  
4 an annular second housing portion extending axially from the first  
5 housing portion, the second housing portion having a retainer for retainably  
6 receiving an end of the actuator lever while allowing pivotable movement of the  
7 actuator lever with respect to the housing, wherein the retainer is configured to  
8 inhibit axial movement of the end of the actuator lever.

1 18. The housing of claim 17 wherein the retainer comprises an  
2 aperture that extends through the second housing portion.

1                    19. The housing of claim 18 wherein the aperture comprises a first  
2     portion having a first width transverse to the axis, and a second portion extending  
3     axially from the first portion and having a second width transverse to the axis,  
4     wherein the second width is less than the first width.

1                    20. The housing of claim 18 wherein the aperture comprises a T-  
2     shaped opening.

1                    21. The housing of claim 17 wherein the second housing portion  
2     comprises multiple retainers, each retainer being configured to retainably receive  
3     an end of an actuator lever while allowing pivotable movement of the actuator lever  
4     with respect to the housing, wherein the retainers are configured to inhibit axial  
5     movement of the ends of the actuator levers.